

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An absolute value calculating element comprising:
_____ electrostrictive elements; and a

detecting means for detecting an amount of deformation ~~thereof~~ of said
electrostrictive elements;

wherein an alternating-current signal is calculated into an absolute value and output by impressing the alternating-current signal to said electrostrictive elements to deform ~~the same~~ said electrostrictive elements and by converting a distortion of said electrostrictive elements into an a direct-current electric signal ~~by using~~ said detecting means.

2. (Currently Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 1, wherein said detecting means comprises a piezoelectric/electrostrictive element that is deformed in proportion to the amount of said deformation of said electrostrictive elements; and

wherein ~~an~~ the alternating-current signal is calculated into an absolute value and output by impressing the alternating-current signal to said electrostrictive elements to deform ~~the same~~ said electrostrictive elements and by outputting an electromotive force generated by ~~the~~ said deformation of said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element.

3. (Previously Presented) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 2, wherein said electrostrictive elements and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element are overlapped and pinched between a rigid body that is not deformed.

4. (Currently Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 2, wherein one end of each said electrostrictive ~~elements~~ element is fixed in a deforming direction thereof while the other end of each said electrostrictive ~~elements~~ element is fixedly attached to one surface of an elastic plate body, said elastic plate body having one fixed end and another free end, and

wherein said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is plate-shaped and is fixedly attached to ~~the other~~ an opposed surface of said elastic plate body.

5. (Currently Amended) The absolute value calculating element of Claim 4, wherein said electrostrictive elements ~~and said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element~~ are ~~formed in a plate-like shape,~~ plate-shaped.

~~wherein said electrostrictive elements are fixedly attached to one surface of said elastic plate body while said piezoelectric/electrostrictive element is fixedly attached to the opposing surface of said elastic plate body.~~